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**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.S. EMBASSY BRINGS AMERICAN HIP HOP CULTURE TO  
DHAKA**

**DHAKA, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 --** The American Center of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka is pleased to announce that a group of four renowned American hip-hop artists, will visit Dhaka on November 8- 17, as part of a cultural exchange program called “Next Level” sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Next Level is a program that sends American hip-hop artists abroad to foster cultural exchange, conflict resolution, and entrepreneurship. Comprised of MCs, DJs, beatmakers and dancers, the Next Level team will perform, conduct workshops, perform demonstrations and also work individually with artists and musicians throughout Bangladesh. The official launch for the Next Level events will be held at the EMK Center on November 8 at 6:00 pm. On November 17 at 6:30 pm the group will give a live performance at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy National Auditorium. Passes for this performance are available free of charge at these locations: The EMK Center, Midas Center, plot-5, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Road 27 (Old) /16 (New), Dhanmondi; Pizza Hut, Dhanmondi; Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi; Gloria Jean’s Coffees (Gulshan); KFC (Banani) and the American Center, Baridhara.

The group consists of four artists: Mr. Gabriel ‘Asheru’ Benn, MC, a veteran hip hop artist, educator and youth activist, Mr. André “DJ A-Minor” Barden, an educator and DJ, Ms. JocElyn Ellis, a vocalist, songwriter and producer, Ms. Amirah Sackett, a hip-hop dancer and choreographer. The artists will be accompanied by Next Level Director Mark Katz, a professor in the Department of Music at the University of North Carolina (UNC).

For more information, visit the U.S. Embassy’s Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy>. To see dance video clips and learn more about Next Level USA<sup>SM</sup> please visit: <http://www.nextlevel-usa.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/NextLevelUSA>.